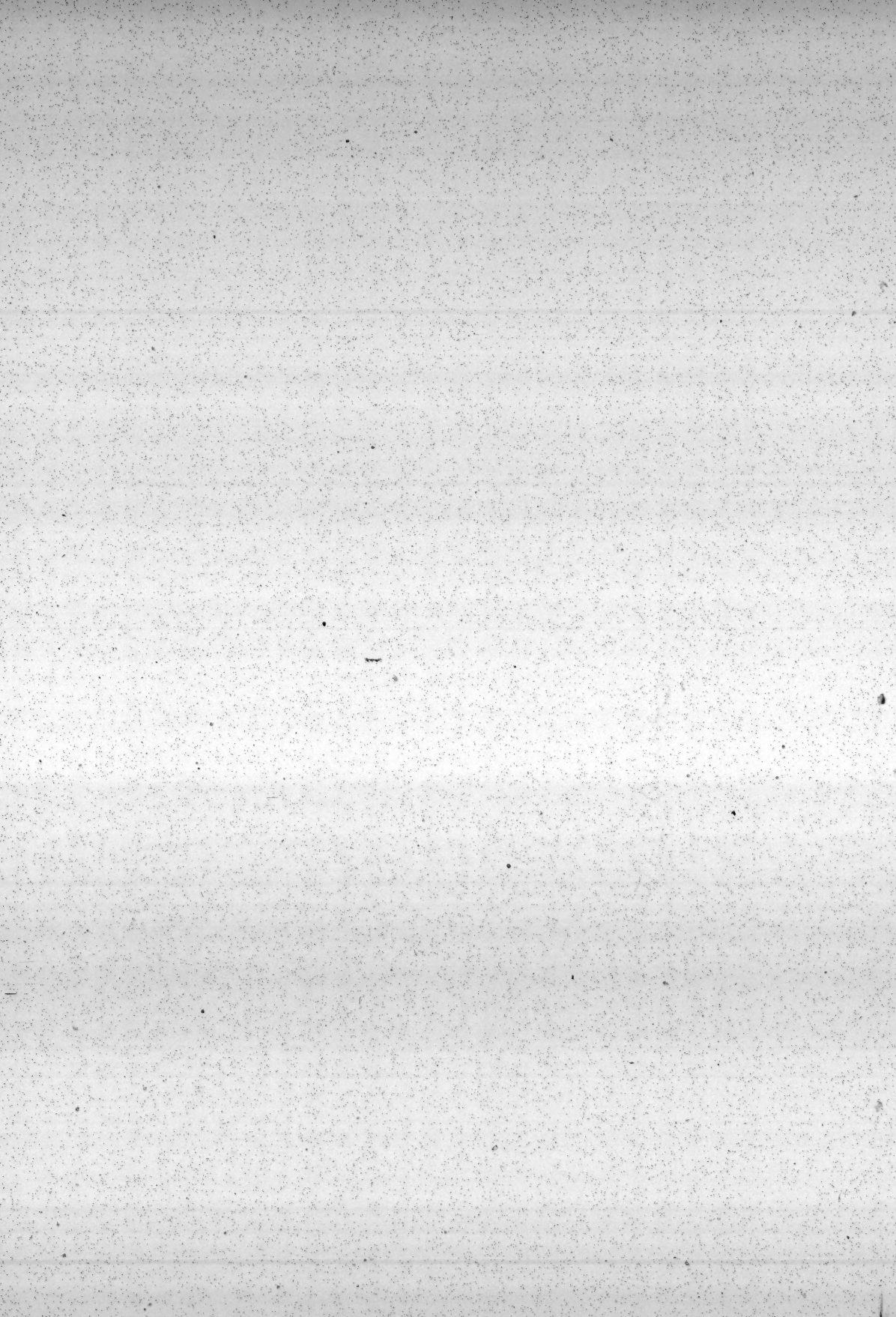


A full and true
RELATION
Of a most Barbarous and Cruel
ROBBERY and MURDER,
Committed by Six men and One woman
Neer *WAKEFIELD*
IN
York-shire.

With a full Account how they
broke into the house of one *Anthony*
Wilson, Binding and Gaggng the whole
Family ; using the said *Anthony Wilson*
and his Wife after a most cruel manner :
and after they had taken away Six pounds
and odde money, with what other Goods
they thought fit, the woman killed the said
Anthony Wilson with a Knife which she
had in her bosome.

This may be Printed. *Ko. L'Estrange.*

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Barbarous and cruel Robbery and Murder committed by six men and one woman, neer *Wakefield* in *York-shire*.

IT would be too tedious to write a Relation of all the manifold barbarous and cruel Robberies and Murders that hath been committed within a few weeks in this Nation wherein we live, notwithstanding the great endeavours that hath been used in all parts of this Kingdom, for the apprehending and bringing to Judgement all notorious misdemeanours and evil doers, that they may receive their deserved punishments. But in this villanous age wherein we live, men are grown to that height of sin, that neither the dread of punishment in this world, which hath of late been inflicted on so many, nor the Divine vengeance of God in the Holy Scriptures so often pronounced against Thieves and Murderers, can deter them from those horrible and execrable practices, both to the ruine of many men and their whole families in this world, and (without sincere and true repentance) the destruction and utter ruine of their own Souls in the

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world

world to come. But lest you should think me too tedious in holding you over-long upon a Preamble, I will in as few words as possibly I may, give you a full and true Relation of the most horridest and wickedest Robbery and Murder that hath ever been heard of this many years.

In a small Village near *Wakefield* in the County of *York*, lived one *Anthony Wilson*, a man of a very honest and good Reputation amongst his Neighbours, and one that farmed near One hundred pounds a year in the same place where he lived, and was reputed a very rich man; yet it was not his Riches that could save his life, but was rather the occasion of losing it.

For upon the sixth day of this instant *December* about the middle of the night, when the said *Anthony Wilson* and his whole Family was in their beds and fast asleep, Six men and One woman broke into the house where the said *Anthony Wilson* lived, and came into the Room where the good old man and his Wife lay, with Lights in their hands and Vizards upon their faces, and undrawed the curtaines of the bed, immediately binding and gagging the man, his wife, and two daughters that lay in a Trundle-bed under their Father and Mother; and then leaving them for a while, they went into the Room where two men-servants lay, and bound and gagged them in like manner as they had done the Master and Mistriss of the house; and from thence went into the Chamber where the Maid lay, and bound and gagged her likewise.

And

And thus having secured the whole Family from crying out or making any resistance, they returned to the Chamber where the said *Anthony Wilson*, his Wife and Child were, and unbound and ungagged the said *Anthony Wilson*; one of them putting a Pistol to his breast, telling him, that if he made the least resistance or noise whereby they might be discovered, they would immediately shoot him; and then demanded of him where his Money was; which he told them was but a very small sum, he having but two days before paid his Landlord his half years rent: but that which he had he told them was in a Trunk by his Bed-side, and gave them the Key thereof; which when they had open'd and finding but Six pound odde money therein, they told him, that was not all they came for; for they very well understood that he had a far greater sum in the house, which they must have before they went. But the good man affirming that that sum was all which he had, and stedfastly denying that he knew of any more, they immediately lighted a Match and put it between his fingers until such time as it had burned all the flesh from the bone, (often asking him in the mean time, if he would confess any more money) but his answer was, That he did not know of any more: Then taking the Match from between his fingers, and binding and gagging him as they had done before, they went to his Wife (who all this time lay in a very sad condition to behold the torment and misery that they had put her

Husband.

Husband to) and unbound and ungagged her, asking her where the Money was ; but she denying (as her Husband had done before) that she knew of any more Money than what they had already got , they put the same lighted Match between her fingers in the same manner as they had done between her Husbands, oftentimes asking her, if she would confess where her Money was : and she as resolutely denying that there was any more in the house to her knowledge (as indeed there was not) for they had disposed of what Money they had about two or three days before : Whereupon they took the Match from between her fingers, after it had remained there almost a quarter of an hour and burned all the flesh from the bones, and then bound and gagged her again in the same manner as they had done her Husband ; and then rifled the Chamber, and took what Money there was, together with the best of their Linnen, Wearing-clothes, and one silver Bowl, and so were leaving them, when the Woman-thief (who of all others is most cruel) would by all means have perswaded the rest of her Comrades to have murdered the whole Family, for fear they might afterwards come to the knowledge of them and prosecute the Law against them.

But the men being of a little the better nature (though otherwise cruel enough) or else not willing to adde Murder to the horrid sin of Theft, which they had then committed, would not be perswaded to it by all the arguments that that wicked

wicked, cruel, and hard-hearted woman could use.

She nevertheless, being instigated by the Devil, who doubtless hath the greatest share in her, took a Knife which she had in her bosom and thrust it into the body of the man, and so departed with the rest of her Companions, leaving the good man to wallow in his own blood, and his Wife and Children in a most deplorable condition, beholding the sad spectacle of the wounded man, and not being in a condition to aid and assist him: in which sad manner they remained until seven of the clock in the morning.

At which time a Thresher came to work in the Barn, but finding the Barn-door shut, as it had not usually been at that time of the day, he went up to the house, where finding the door opened, he went in, calling and knocking for the Key of the Barn-door; and receiving no answer, he went up stairs, where he beheld the man almost dead, and the rest of the Family in that sad condition as hath been above-related, to his great astonishment.

But after some pause, he considered what might be the cause; so unbinding and ungagging the Woman, her Children, and Servants, who were by that time (through their sad usage) scarce able to help themselves, he went into the Village and related to his Neighbours in what condition he had left his Matter, Dame, and the whole Family: who made what haste they possibly

possibly could to their assistance: but there being never a Chirurgion neer, they could not get help for the good man before such time as that he bled himself to death.

The persons who committed this cruel and villanous act are not yet found out, nor their names discovered, although it is supposed they live not far from the place, and it is hoped may in time be discovered, and receive the just Punishment due to their deserts: for the All-seeing God, who hath threatned Vengeance upon such persons, will not long suffer them to go unpunished.

FINIS.

